

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/608,402

Examiner

Daniel L. Greene

Applicant(s)

BRICKELL ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/17/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 30-41,48-52 and 57-73.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 June 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 3/17/05.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

JAMES P. TRAMMELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John F. Conroy on 3/17/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1-29, 42-47 and 53-56 have been cancelled.

Claims 30-41 and 48-52 are amended and new claims 57-73 have been added as follows.

Claim 1-29. (Canceled)

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving, over a data transmission network, use information describing a first use of a digital credential by an owner of a digital credential, at any of a plurality of different services where the digital credential can be used, the digital credential being a digital security mechanism associated with a the owner's identity;

receiving use information describing a second use of the digital credential by a delegate of the owner of the digital credential, at any of the plurality of different services where the digital credential can be used;

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storing the use information in an activity log;
generating an activity report for the delegate based on the activity log;
generating an activity report for the owner based on the activity log;
allowing said owner to view all reports; and
allowing said delegate to view only the activity report for the delegate and not the activity report for the owner or activity reports for other delegates.

Claim 31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the use information includes transaction information.

Claim 32. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the use information includes verification information for the digital credential.

Claim 33. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the transaction information includes at least one of a message that was signed, a transaction value, an online service, an internet protocol (IP) address, a value of the transaction, a date of the transaction and a the time of the transaction.

Claim 34. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the digital credential includes a digital signature key, and further wherein generating the activity report includes associating a name to the digital signature key and listing the name of the digital signature key.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein generating the activity report for the owner includes generating the activity report upon request by an owner of the digital credential.

Claim 36. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein generating the activity report includes generating the activity report each time the digital credential is verified.

Claim 37. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein generating the activity report includes generating a report periodically.

Claim 38. (Original) The method of claim 30 further including analyzing the activity log to detect misuse of the digital credential.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein generating the activity report includes listing activity for a plurality of digital signature keys associated with the owner.

Claim 40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 further comprising:

authorizing one or more delegates to use a delegated digital credential to act on behalf of the owner of the digital credential for specified functions, wherein verifying the use of the digital credential includes determining whether the delegated digital credential was authorized for the specific use.

Claim 41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein generating the activity report for the owner includes generating activity reports of the delegates of the owner.

Claim 42-47. (Canceled)

Claim 48. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving, over a data transmission network, transaction requests from a plurality of delegate users who are delegated from an owner, wherein the transaction requests include digital credentials for the delegate users, the digital credentials being digital security mechanisms associated with users' identities;

processing the transaction requests; and

communicating transaction information to a central service, wherein the transaction information includes the digital credentials of the delegates, the transaction information communicated to create, for the plurality of delegate users, activity reports regarding the usage of the digital credentials, the activity reports created at the central service that said owner is allowed to view while each delegate is allowed to view only their own activity report and not allowed to view reports for other delegates.

Claim 49. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein processing the transaction requests includes communicating the digital credentials to the central service for verification.

Claim 50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein processing a requested transaction includes:

verifying the digital credential; and

communicating a result of the verification to the credential service.

Claim 51. (Original) The method of claim 48 further includes receiving an activity report from the central service, wherein the activity report lists the transaction information for each digital credential.

Claim 52. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the transaction information includes at least one of a message that was signed, a transaction value, an online service, an internet protocol (IP) address, a value of the transaction, a date of the transaction and a the time of the transaction.

Claim 53-56. (Canceled)

Claim 57. (New) An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

receiving, over a data transmission network, use information describing a first use of a digital credential by an owner of a digital credential, at any of a plurality of different services where the digital credential can be used, the digital credential being a digital security mechanism associated with the owner's identity;

receiving use information describing a second use of the digital credential by a delegate of the owner of the digital credential, at any of the plurality of different services where the digital credential can be used;

storing the use information in an activity log;

generating an activity report for the delegate based on the activity log;

generating an activity report for the owner based on the activity log;

allowing said owner to view all reports; and

allowing said delegate to view only the activity report for the delegate and not the activity report for the owner or activity reports for other delegates.

Claim 58. (New) The article of claim 57, wherein the use information includes transaction information.

Claim 59. (New) The article of claim 57, wherein the use information includes verification information for the digital credential.

Claim 60. (New) The article of claim 58, wherein the transaction information includes at least one of a message that was signed, a transaction value, an

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online service, an internet protocol (IP) address, a value of the transaction, a date of the transaction and a the time of the transaction.

Claim 61. (New) The article of claim 57, wherein the digital credential includes a digital signature key, and further wherein generating the activity report includes associating a name to the digital signature key and listing the name of the digital signature key.

Claim 62. (New) The article of claim 57, wherein generating the activity report for the owner includes generating the activity report upon request by an owner of the digital credential.

Claim 63. (New) The article of claim 57, wherein generating the activity report includes generating the activity report each time the digital credential is verified.

Claim 64. (New) The article of claim 57, wherein generating the activity report includes generating a report periodically.

Claim 65. (New) The article of claim 57, wherein the operations further comprise analyzing the activity log to detect misuse of the digital credential.

Claim 66. (New) The article of claim 57, wherein generating the activity report includes listing activity for a plurality of digital signature keys associated with the owner.

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Claim 67. (New) The article of claim 57, wherein the operations further comprise:

authorizing one or more delegates to use a delegated digital credential to act on behalf of the owner of the digital credential for specified functions, wherein verifying the use of the digital credential includes determining whether the delegated digital credential was authorized for the specific use.

Claim 68. (New) The article of claim 57, wherein generating the activity report for the owner includes generating activity reports of the delegates of the owner.

Claim 69. (New) An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

receiving, over a data transmission network, transaction requests from a plurality of delegate users who are delegated from an owner, wherein the transaction requests include digital credentials for the delegate users, the digital credentials being digital security mechanisms associated with users' identities;

processing the transaction requests; and

communicating transaction information to a central service, wherein the transaction information includes the digital credentials of the delegates, the transaction information communicated to create, for the plurality of delegate users, activity reports regarding the usage of the digital credentials, the activity reports created at the central service that said owner is allowed to view while each delegate is allowed to view only their own activity report and not allowed to view reports for other delegates.

Claim 70. (New) The article of claim 69, wherein processing the transaction requests includes communicating the digital credentials to the central service for verification.

Claim 71. (New) The article of claim 69, wherein processing a requested transaction includes:

verifying the digital credential; and communicating a result of the verification to the credential service.

Claim 72. (New) The article of claim 69, wherein the operations further comprise receiving a activity report from the central service, wherein the activity report lists the

transaction information for each digital credential.

Claim 73. (New) The article of claim 69, wherein the transaction information includes at least one of a message that was signed, a transaction value, an online service, an internet protocol (IP) address, a value of the transaction, a date of the transaction and a the time of the transaction.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per claims 30, 48, 57 and 69, the closest prior art of record Anderson et al. U.S. Patent 6,021,202, Vance et al. U.S. Patent 6,442,526 and Musgrave U.S. Patent

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6,105,010 taken either individually or in combination with other prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a credential verification service (CVS) that authenticates digital credentials requests of an owner and his/her delegates of online service providers. The CVS stores the authentication results and transaction information at a central activity log center.

The CVS generates an activity report from the activity log that lists the authentication results and the transaction information. A fraud detection module within the CVS analyzes the activity log to identify any unusual patterns order identify fraudulent activities or general misuse of the digital credential.

The specific allowable feature, which distinguishes the present invention over the prior art is the owner of the digital certificate can view all the reports associated with his/her digital certificate while, the owners delegates can only view their own activity report.

Claims 31-41, 49-52, 58-68 and 70-73 are dependent upon Claims 30, 48, 57 and 69 respectively, and thus have all the limitations of Claims 30, 48, 57 and 69 respectively and are allowable for that reason..

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel L. Greene whose telephone number is 703-306-5539. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thur. 8am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P. Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Daniel L. Greene
Examiner
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3/22/2005